

PLO says it mediates in Yemen

AMMAN (R) — A Palestinian official said on Friday Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was intensifying mediation in Yemen to prevent armed confrontation in a dispute threatening its unity. A crisis between the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the South until union in 1990, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his party, the General People's Congress (GPC), has plunged Yemen into its worst crisis since unification. It is over the handling of the merger between the two countries and the two armies have yet to merge. "The PLO's leadership is in constant touch with our Yemeni brothers and intensifying our mediation to see that the dispute is resolved according to the legal framework, constitutionally, and away from violence and confrontation," Abas Zaki, a Central Committee member of the mainstream PLO movement Fatah, told Reuters Friday. Mr. Zaki, who accompanied Mr. Arafat's mediation visit to Yemen last Friday, said there were signs of a "progress in resolving the crisis between the disputing sides." He did not elaborate. He said the PLO's mediation was prompted by grave concern over the turn of events in the last two weeks.



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King congratulates Japanese emperor

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Emperor Akihito of Japan congratulating him on the anniversary of his Accession to the Throne, and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Japanese people further progress and prosperity.

Prince Charles arrives in Aqaba

AQABA (I.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, arrived here Friday on a two-day private visit during which he will meet with Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, the Royal Court announced. Prince Charles, who is an old friend of Their Majesties, is on a regional tour of the Middle East.

Prince Mohammad awards excelling shooters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein and president of the Jordan Shooting Federation, Friday presented cups to excelling shooters, who took part in the shooting championship. Prince Mohammad also presented the federation's trophy to the Jordan Clothing Company (CJC) for its contribution and support for the shooting championship, organised to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 58th birthday anniversary. Prince Mohammad presented the Royal Shooting Club's trophy to Nawras Ahmad Qasem, the longest serving staff member in the club. Taking part in the 10-day championship were 108 junior and senior shooters.

Juppe to tour Mideast

PARIS (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is to make a three-nation visit to the Middle East, taking in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, later this month, the foreign ministry said Friday. The visit, from Nov. 17 to 19, will enable Juppe to discuss "the situation and trends in the Middle East peace process," foreign ministry deputy spokesman Catherine Colonna said. It will be Mr. Juppe's first visit to the region.

PLO leaders discussed progress in talks

TUNIS (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership began a meeting here Friday to discuss problems in implementing the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. The session of the PLO Executive Committee, chaired by Yasser Arafat, was due to be followed by a meeting of Mr. Arafat's Fatah Revolutionary Council. The meeting of the 100-member Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the main PLO faction, is the first since the signing of the Israeli-PLO accord in Washington.

17 injured in Cairo prison riot

CAIRO (AFP) — Thirteen Islamic fundamentalists and four policemen were injured in a prison riot in the Mazzat Tora jail of Egyptian capital, police said Thursday. Scuffles broke out as prisoners used sharp objects to prevent guards from entering their cells during a search. An officer was among those injured in the fighting Wednesday. Three prisoners have been killed and around 100 people injured, including almost 60 policemen, in four jail riots since late August. The human rights organisation Amnesty International charged Thursday that the Egyptian government was allowing "the systematic and widespread use of torture" of Islamic militants.

Crown Prince calls on PLO to cooperate closer with Jordan

Many issues remain before peace treaty with Israel

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to cooperate better with Jordan.

"We are wasting time. We wish Palestinians would cooperate better," Prince Hassan was quoted as saying in interview with the French daily Liberation which was published Friday.

Prince Hassan was quoted as saying that Jordan was helping train Palestinian police but was not involved in talks about their future role.

The Crown Prince reiterated earlier statements that it was still premature to talk about possible co-operation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity.

"We are not going to discuss a confederation with the Gaza and Jericho before even defining what our customs tariffs will be, what part Jordan will take in administering the territories," Reuter quoted Prince Hassan as telling Liberation. He said Jordan was focusing

on what effects the PLO-Israel agreement would have on the Kingdom and feared that peace, together with Western aid, would boost Israel's economic power and widen the gap with Arab countries.

"How could we consider investing in Israel unless there is a reciprocal movement? Arab countries could be suicidal if they lifted their boycott against Israel without getting anything in return," Prince Hassan was quoted as saying.

In an interview with the Paris-based Radio Orient Thursday, His Majesty King Hussein said many complicated issues need to be tackled before a peace treaty with Israel is signed.

Reaffirming Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, the King said "talk about final settlement is premature at this stage," adding that negotiations over the final settlement will begin "not in the so distant future."

King Hussein said that issues that need to be tackled include

the Jordanian lands occupied by Israel since 1967, which should be returned to Jordanian sovereignty, and water issues.

Asked about obstacles that still impede initial agreements over outstanding problems, the King said: "I do not believe that anything stands in the way provided we first deal with water issues and the problem of 300 square kilometres of Jordanian territories extending from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba occupied by Israel."

The King dismissed reports that he was arranging to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington next week.

"I believe that the Israeli premier will be in Washington on a scheduled visit and I will be here among members of the Jordanian family celebrating my birthday, which means I cannot be in two places at the same time," the King said.

Asked on reports of him meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the

King said: "The present circumstances do not allow for continued denial or non denial. There are contacts within the framework of the peace process with the purpose of achieving comprehensive and just peace in the area, and we are committed to realising that objective."

Prince Hassan on Wednesday expressed surprise about news that he had initiated an accord setting the stage for peace between Jordan and Israel.

"It is new to me, the signing and the meeting," Agence France Press quoted Prince Hassan as telling reporters.

Asked about reports that King Hussein and Mr. Peres met in Jordan last week, Prince Hassan said "there was no way to confirm or deny. The norm in the peace process is that meetings take place."

Asked on whether Jordan was about to sign a peace treaty with Israel, Prince Hassan was quoted as saying: "There is a lot of hard work to do. I told (U.S.) President Bill Clinton and Minister Peres, the less focusing of the camera, the better."

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The King told Radio Orient that the signing of peace treaty will take a long time, and serious efforts are needed to attain that goal.

In reply to a question about the progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Lebanese-Israeli track, the King said that Jordan will not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel as the Kingdom remains committed to a comprehensive settlement.

But he added that the Kingdom was going ahead with its negotiations with regards to the Israeli-Jordanian agenda and other complex issues that are still to be discussed and solved.

On Jerusalem and the holy places, the King said: "I hope that peace will finally come to Jerusalem where sovereignty should be only to God alone, and no other party."

"I hope that the city will remain symbol for meeting

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Islamist, leftist and pan-Arab deputies likely to form 'vocal' parliamentary bloc

By Marjam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to public belief, the non-Islamist, non-leftist bloc in Parliament is expected to form a vocal parliamentary group that both the government and the official opposition will have to reckon with, according to analysts.

Alliances based on internal issues are expected to be a new phenomenon in the 12th Parliament when it convenes sometime in the next three weeks. The ability of an estimated 30 deputies forming two "critical" blocs in — Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftists — in the Lower House to draw independent and tribal support will be a major factor in their ability to force the government to implement their programmes and policies, analysts and commentators say.

Initial predictions that the 12th Parliament will be dominated by traditional and centrist

politicians have materialised following the apparent decline in the number of both Islamist and leftist and pan-Arab political deputies. Together, the two groups comprise a "critical" bloc of around 30 deputies who are expected to be very vocal on issues pertaining to economic planning, public freedoms and the peace process.

"But the crux of the matter is that the non-bloc members, particularly the independents, may play a very important role. Depending on the issue, they may side with the leftists and the IAF," says a former high ranking official.

The bloc, says the former official, would include not only the 16 IAF deputies but independent Islamists, leftists and, in some instances, independent deputies as well. Some deputies who seek Cabinet posts but fail to secure them may become possible critics and opposition members to what-

ever government is in office.

"Most commentators assume that if someone is an 'independent' (he or she) cannot have a critical position regarding the peace process, economic planning or other issues — this is just not so," added the former official.

"There are at least 30 highly politicised deputies and they are likely to make the day a lively one in Parliament. No government should take this Parliament for granted. It should work hard to take Parliament's criticisms into consideration when formulating policies," cautioned the former official.

Iyad Kattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre and moderator of many public political debates, agrees with the former official: "The make-up of Parliament does not mean that there will be agreement with the government on all issues, especially internal issues will be hotly debated by

tribal chiefs and leftists alike."

Dr. Abla Ammawi, from the Amman-based French Centre for Contemporary Middle Eastern Study and Research, agrees with Mr. Kattan.

"People voted for their tribe, their clan, their kinsmen in most instances. But since on internal issues in particular there are so many different interests, chances are that these traditionalists will oppose the government on many policies if it did not address the different regional interests," said Dr. Ammawi.

"It may be that on foreign affairs they will vote in favour of the government line, but in return they will press for concessions on internal issues."

Not all commentators agree that strong bloc voting will be able to oppose or change government policies. "Critical voices in the Lower House have been reduced. Thanks to limitations on the election process and the change in the

Election Law, critical voices will be outvoted every time," said IAF member Ziad Abu Ghannimah.

Mr. Abu Ghannimah, a former spokesman for the IAF, believes that the 12th Parliament is comprised of "docile, yes men" who will allow any government to pass its policies with ease. "There will be a maximum of 30 votes of opposition and that is not enough to vote down any government policy or programme," Mr. Abu Ghannimah told the Jordan Times.

But Mr. Abu Ghannimah was not the only person who felt that the voices of opposition in Parliament would now be minimalised. "The new Parliament is comprised of mostly yes men and will be their day," said a spokesman for the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPP), which along with the Jordan People's

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Rabin says peace talks passed beyond point of no return

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday efforts to implement the peace accord had "passed a point of no return," and urged U.S. help in secret negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Mr. Rabin, speaking at a news conference with President Bill Clinton, said the PLO must condemn any violations of their accord signed in Washington Sept. 13.

Asked about a recent attack on Jewish settlers, Mr. Clinton also said that PLO leader Yasser Arafat was "duty-bound" to condemn the continuing violence.

"But I'm quite sure that we and the Palestinians have passed a point of no return in our efforts to implement the agreement," Mr. Rabin said.

He said: "We have found that direct and quiet contacts between Israel and its partners in efforts to achieve comprehensive peace (are) the best way to overcome prejudices of the past."

"The less exposed to the light of the media, the better

the chances to achieve agreements," he said, adding that Mr. Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher can "assist this particular mode of negotiations."

He said Israel was ready to continue talks with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Mr. Clinton urged Syria to speak out firmly in favour of peace in the Middle East and said nobody should undermine the Israel-PLO accord.

Leaders seeking peace must speak out clearly and strongly, said Mr. Clinton.

He was apparently referring to Syria, which has encouraged Palestinians opposing the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord.

Mr. Clinton said opponents of the agreement must not be allowed to derail it.

He added that peace between Israel and Syria was vital if the accord was to succeed.

Asked if any progress on the Israel-Syria question had been made at Friday's meeting, Mr. Clinton said: "We discussed some specific things that the United States will be exploring during the next several

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Libya rejects new U.N. sanctions

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya denounced new U.N. sanctions for its refusal to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie but said on Friday it was still urging them to stand trial in Scotland.

"While expressing its displeasure and deep regret (the foreign ministry) reaffirms on the other hand the serious and sincere will of Libya to reach a solution to this artificial crisis as soon as possible," the ministry said in a statement carried by the Libyan News Agency JANA.

It reaffirmed its offer to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Gali on Sept. 29 that Libya did not oppose the two suspects standing trial in Scotland and "was ready to urge them to do so."

But it set no date for the two men to submit themselves, saying procedures still had to be agreed on.

The foreign ministry denounced the U.N. Security Council Resolution adopted Thursday, saying it was only aimed at harming the Libyan

people and the official JANA news agency said it was a decision by "imperialist" Western nations that ran counter to world opinion.

The ministry statement and JANA's report pictured the resolution as unjust and did not even mention the possibility of surrendering for trial in the United States or Britain or the 1988 bombing that led to 270 deaths.

The ministry expressed Libya's "deep sorrow that the council has fallen again under the pressure and practices of the United States, Britain and France."

The three countries have adopted a "policy of force, warnings and threats... to create the biggest damage possible to the Libyan Arab people," said the statement, carried by JANA.

The Security Council resolution, effective Dec. 1 unless Libya complies, would freeze Libyan assets abroad and han the sale of some oil

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Polls results in Third District reflective of more than just change in political mood

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

him, is considered to be purely focussed on the Jordanian agenda.

Although at least Messrs Taher Masri and Ali Abu Ragheb, who succeeded in last Monday's elections, are well accepted as progressive liberals who want to see democracy move forward, the majority of their voters elected them because of their "clear identity" along the Jordanian-Palestinian divide and not because of any difference in their progressive and socialist outlooks.

The high number of votes that Mr. Keilani — minus the percentage that the IAF moved to this district from other front enclaves — clearly indicated that the Islamists in the district voted in favour of an Islamic face because they wanted to consolidate a success for the Islamists in this predominantly open constituency.

This argument is substantiated by the fact that Mr. Nabulsi, who ran on a progressive leftist ticket which won the election, did not win despite calls from Islamists to support him. Where this analysis failed is that Mr. Nabulsi had originally attracted the votes of the Christians and liberals who wanted to repay him for his stand against segregation of schools but were sent scurrying when a full page newspaper advertisement equated

ing him with an Islamist like Mr. Shbeihat was published as part of a campaign by "the friends of Mr. Nabulsi." And just like the liberals and Christians opted for someone who would, without ambiguity, stand for and defend their social agenda, the Islamists in the district were not going to vote for a liberal just because he had secured the support of an Islamist.

The high number of votes that Mr. Keilani secured in these elections, most observers believe, strongly indicated that the Islamists were less concerned with the human rights and democracy issues, which Mr. Shbeihat had propagated during his four-year tenure as deputy in the 11th parliament, and cast their votes to the only Islamic face they knew.

to fully involve Jordan in economic plans Quick progress needed on Palestinian-Israeli track

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Attaining quick progress on improving the situation on the ground for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza is integral to the success of the peace process. State Department and World Bank officials agree.

Dr. Thomas Miller, director of the Office of Israeli and Arab-Israeli Affairs at the State Department, and Cao Koch-Weser, vice president for the Middle East and North Africa region at the World Bank, reviewed what steps are necessary to ensure success in the peace process during a panel discussion Nov. 10 sponsored by the Middle East Policy Council.

"There is a clock ticking most definitely on the Palestinian track. I think there is a great sensitivity on both the Palestinian and the Israeli sides as to how quickly this clock is ticking," Mr. Miller said.

"I know the sides are deeply, energetically engaged in trying to come to closure...." he said.

Mr. Koch-Weser stressed that "without quick and tangible economic, social benefits reaching the Palestinian people there will be no lasting peace."

Reporting on progress thus far, Mr. Koch-Weser said the Palestinians presented an outline for an implementation and coordinating agency during a donors' ad hoc liaison committee meeting in Paris last week. The donors also discussed how to organise their assistance efforts, he reported.

A next step will be the first consultative meeting of the donors, which will take place Dec. 16 in Paris. During this meeting, the World Bank hopes to present an emergency assistance programme for the near term, studies for the medium term development efforts, and a technical assistance programme for comprehensive institution building, he said.

"I am confident, if we all work closely and with great

effort, that by the time elections will be held next year in July (in Gaza and Jericho), one can indeed point to tangible progress on the ground" for the Palestinians, Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Assistance efforts, he said, will be divided into three phases: An emergency relief and works programme; an emergency assistance programme directed at improving infrastructure; and meeting medium- and long-term investment needs.

On Palestinian efforts, Mr. Koch-Weser said he is encouraged by "how good the local municipality administrations in the West Bank are and how efficient some of the local power systems and school system run."

There is implementation capacity at the grassroots level," he said. However, the donor community is concerned that the necessary implementation institutions will not be in place in time for this massive effort to succeed."

"We are concerned that there has not been sufficient progress in creating the umbrella organisation... that would develop policy options, coordinate aid at the receiving end, (and) would manage and monitor the implementation of projects," he said.

"We have expressed our concern to the Palestinian delegation. I know that many of the bilateral partners... will pursue this vigorously," he added.

On Israel's negotiations with Lebanon, Mr. Miller said he disagrees with those who contend that the Lebanese track is wholly dependent on the Syrian track.

There are "very significant aspects of the Lebanese track which should be viewed independently," he said. Israel's negotiations with Lebanon focus on security questions and the withdrawal of foreign forces, not on territory, he noted.

"I am confident that with time that track as well can come to closure," he concluded.

tremendous sensitivity in the U.S. government... in making sure that Jordan is fully involved in the economic development plans throughout the region."

Reviewing the status of the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations, Mr. Miller said "I am confident that the two sides can come to closure in the not-too-distant future."

Turning to the other tracks, Mr. Miller said, "I wish I could report the same degree of success in the Syrian and Lebanese track. Unfortunately I cannot."

"You still have a basic gap between the Israeli and Syrian sides over questions of land, security and peace," he said.

Asked whether the United States would provide security guarantees on the Golan Heights if Israel and Syria were to reach an agreement, Mr. Miller responded, "I would say that we are a full partner in this process. We will do what is necessary, obviously within our constitutional requirements and in close consultation with the Hill (Congress)."

Commenting on a question regarding Syria's commitment to the peace process, Mr. Miller said, "There is no question in our mind on President Assad's commitment to peace.... On the same token, it does trouble us that Syria continues to play host to a number of the rejectionist groups."

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15 Turkish militants sentenced to death

ANKARA (Agencies) — A Turkish military court has sentenced 15 Kurdish separatist militants to death and 14 to life imprisonment, a court source said.

The court, in the southeastern capital city of Diyarbakir, passed verdict on 145 people Thursday after a trial that began in 1981. Only 23 defendants held in prison were in court for the verdict, with all others at large, the source said.

Turkish Television reported that the court of passed prison terms of 20 to 24 years on five minors convicted of belonging to a guerrilla organisation and of murder, attempted murder, raids on villages, and robberies.

Thirteen members of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were jailed for 10 to 18 years for helping in robberies, threats, and murders.

Twenty-eight PKK members not charged with any other offence were jailed for five to 10 years, and another eight received shorter sentences of one to five years because of their youth, the television said.

About 700 alleged separatists were originally charged in the case, known as the "main PKK trial" to distinguish it from numerous other PKK trials.

All were charged with starting and masterminding the banned Marxist PKK, known to have been formed between 1979 and 1980.

In 1984, the group began an armed struggle for a separate Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey. More than 11,000 people have been killed in the insurgency since then.

Over the years, the court has had to retry the case twice after a higher court overturned some of the sentences and approved others. Consequently the original number of defendants was reduced to 145.

Turkish penal code still carries the death penalty but no judicial execution has been carried out for the last 10 years. Military courts apply the penal code in trials of civilians.

The case is one of the rare trials dragging on since martial law was in effect for three years after a 1980 coup.

While other military tribunals then set up under martial law have long been disbanded, the Diyarbakir court has been left to pursue the PKK case to its end.

The court source said the defendants were likely to appeal.

Parliament deputies from Turkey's mainly-Kurdish southeast have appealed to the government and separatist rebels to end bloodshed.

"We are the True Path Party and Social Democrat Populist Party of the ruling coalition, and opposition's Motherland Party, Social Democratic Republican Peoples Party and the fundamentalist Welfare Party."

Their appeal was against an increasingly relentless fight between government forces and the PKK.

The group did not include the 17 Kurdish nationalist deputies of the Democracy Party (DEP), which has antagonised much of the Turkish public because its members have publicly justified PKK attacks and refused to condemn violence.

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Profiles of newly-elected members of Parliament

MMAN (J.T.) — Following is the continuation of brief profiles of newly-elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament made available to the Jordan Times.

Denotes freshman members.

I Shatti (Independent)* Iqa District

In Deir Alaa, he obtained his B.A. and received a post graduate diploma from Amman University. He was director of Deir Alaa Finance Department.



Abdul Shihadeh (Independent)* Iqa District

In Hebron in 1951, he worked as a teacher in refugee camps until 1962. He has a law degree and served as a member of the Palestine National Council.

Deb Hararsheh (Independent)* Ma'an District

In Musheirfeh in 1954, he obtained a B.A. in economics and business administration from the University of Jordan 1979. He is a member of a Jerash development committee.

Abdullah Salameh (IAF)* Ma'an District

In Reimeh, Jerash, in 1949, he obtained a degree in Islamic law from the University of Jordan. He is currently suing his M.A. studies in Islamic judiciary. He is the president of the IAF branch in Ma'an and a member of its Shoura Council. Was the Awqaf Department director in Ma'an and Jerash and recently the assistant director for King Abdullah Ben Al-Sheikh Mosque.



Abdullah Howeimel (Independent)* Iqa District

In Ghor Al Mazraa in 1956, he obtained a law degree from Beirut Arab University.



Ali Eshoush (Independent)* Iqa District

In Ghor Al Safi in 1949, he holds a diploma certificate.



Imam Ghazawi (Independent)* Iqa District

In Mashareh near Irbid in 1947, he obtained a law degree from Cairo University 1969. He served as assistant governor of Irbid district and administrator at the Ministry and worked for the Ministry of Education.



Abdullah Thunheirat (Independent)* Iqa District

In Shouha Shamalia in 1942, he received his secondary education in Irbid and obtained a B.A. in history from Damascus University in 1963. He worked for the Ministry of Education from 1964-1970, he is elected mayor of Shouha Shamalia from 1980-1988.



Wing Krishan (Independent)* Iqa District

In Ma'an in 1947. He graduated with a degree in accounting and management from Beirut Arab University. He worked for the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. He is twice elected as the president of Beirut Arab University.



Ha Al Habbab (Independent)* Iqa District

In Shobak in 1944, he obtained an A. in Arabic language. He worked for programming at Jordan Television.

Bader Al Riyati (IAF)* Ma'an District

Born in Beir Al Sabee in 1947, he studied at Aqaba schools and graduated from Damascus University with an accounting degree in 1972. He worked at the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Purchases Department. He was a mosque preacher in Aqaba since 1973.

Nawaf Al Qadi (Independent)* Northern Bedouins

Born in Hosa district in 1923, he served in the Jordanian Armed Forces since 1951 and left the service in 1959. In 1963 he served with the Public Security Department in Hebron. He became director of police departments in Nablus, Ma'an, Salt and Karak. In 1975, he served as assistant to the Public Security Department director. He retired as a brigadier. He was a member of the Senate.

Fawaz Al Zoubi (Independent)* Ramtha District

Born in Ramtha in 1956, he finished school in Ramtha and has worked in business. He was elected mayor of Ramtha twice and is a member of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development.



Rafeh Al Saoud (Independent)* Tafileh District

Born in Tafileh in 1955, he obtained a B.A. from the University of Jordan, and an M.A. and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. His field of study was education. He worked as a teacher for seven years for the Ministry of Education then at Mu'ta University.



Mohammad Njadat (Independent)* Southern Bedouins

Born in Aqaba in 1939, he served in the Armed Forces, and holds an M.S. in military sciences. He retired at the rank of major-general and worked at the office of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.



Fayad Jarrar (Independent)* Zarqa District

Born in Jenin in 1944, he finished his schooling and served in several posts. He was a member of the 10th Lower House of Parliament.



Anwar Hadid (Independent)* Fourth District

Born in Amman in 1940, he finished his schooling in the capital and in Beirut before working for the ministry of municipal and rural affairs. He was elected mayor of Quseimeh and Jweideh towns in the early 1980s.



Khaled Ajarmeh (Independent)* Fifth District

Born in Madaba 1933 he obtained a B.A. in military science and worked for the Armed Forces and reached the rank of major general before retiring. He was a member of the National Consultative Council.



Abdul Muhsin Al Nahas (Independent)* Fifth District

Born in Wadi Al Seer in 1933, he obtained his diploma in civil engineering from Belgrade University in 1962. He worked for the Ministry of Public Works. He also worked in Saudi Arabia in the private sector. He has written several articles which were published in local newspapers and magazines.



Thaib Abdullah Khattab (Independent)* First District, Amman

Born in Amman in 1948, he finished his secondary school in 1966, obtained a B.Sc. in medicine from Cairo University and served at the Royal Medical Services. He obtained a diploma in paediatrics from Great Britain in 1985 and has been in private practice in Hashmi Shamali.



Women — and men — see Toujan Faisal's gain as a step in the right direction, a plus for women

By Rama Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Toujan Faisal was the first woman in Jordan's history to be elected to the Lower House of Parliament and her achievement will be recorded in history books. The Jordan Times asked a random sample of citizens what Ms. Faisal's 1,885 vote victory meant to them.

Those interviewed generally expressed approval of a woman serving in Parliament and most agreed that now was the time for women to have a say in the legislature.

Nidaa Addassi, an employee at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), said this is an excellent first step that will benefit the women of this country.

"She (Ms. Faisal) will represent us in Parliament, and will work on achieving our demands and needs in this society," said Ms. Addassi.

"There are some problems facing women that only another woman can understand better than a man would."

Ms. Addassi believed that the most important issue most women expect Ms. Faisal to argue for is providing

important part in the society by sharing in legislation and general issues," said Iyad Inabat, director general assistant to governors at the TCC.

Lamia Fakhouri, a private business owner said she was excited about having a woman in the Lower House and said she expects several important issues to be taken up by Ms. Faisal that will make some positive changes in the society.

"Hopefully, she (Ms. Faisal) will bring out some important issues for debate such as the Civil Status Law, inheritance, and the issue of women being regarded as half a voice when testifying, and many more issues that our society ignores," said Ms. Fakhouri.

A communication engineer at the TCC said he was pleased to see a woman reaching Parliament and that he really did not care which candidate it was as long as it was a woman who was willing to accomplish something for the women of this society.

"It is important to see a woman really taking an

important part in the society by sharing in legislation and general issues," said Iyad Inabat, director general assistant to governors at the TCC.

Bur Taher Yousef (26), an electrician, said he was optimistic about the idea of having a woman deputy because, he maintained, the previous Parliament without a woman accomplished nothing for the society. "If the deputies in the 1989 Parliament did not work for people's interests, what would a woman deputy achieve that the previous deputies did not."

"I believe Ms. Faisal's win was just sympathy from the people because she is a woman, and people wanted to guarantee that a woman will reach the Parliament because males are the majority, and I don't think she will have a big role," said Mr. Yousef.

Mohammad Ateeiat, another private sector employee said it is an excellent opportunity for women to prove themselves in Parliament like they did in the ministries in the past.

Mr. Ateeiat accused the representatives in the previous Parliament of neglecting their supporters after they became deputies. He said they also did not fulfill most of their promises to the people.

ple. "This is an important chance for Ms. Faisal to prove herself in the Parliament."

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"I believe Ms. Faisal's win was just sympathy from the people because she is a woman, and people wanted to guarantee that a woman will reach the Parliament because males are the majority, and I don't think she will have a big role," said Mr. Yousef.

Rania Abu Mansour, an architect at a private company, said Ms. Faisal's victory is a step forward towards achieving women's rights. But Ms. Abu Mansour questions the strength of having one woman in the Parliament. "Do you think one vote can accomplish something in the Parliament that is manipulated by men?"

the meeting will deliberate on the diffusion and operation of electronics instrumentation and microprocessor controls in the Arab countries.

ESCPWA and UNIDO, along with the delegates of Arab countries, will discuss ways and means of enhancing the technical capabilities in the Arab countries to install, operate and maintain the latest automation instruments and microprocessor controls.

Participants will also study the necessity and feasibility of establishing regional instrumentation and microprocessor controls.

They will introduce reports on the domestic level of industry

processor applications. The reports will assess the design, development, manufacture, repair and maintenance of microprocessor-based equipment and instrumentation.

Experts will submit reports on the future projects and cooperation opportunities in the Arab countries.

A joint ESCPWA/UNIDO meeting in 1985 called on both U.N. agencies to assist the countries of the region in establishing a regional centre for design, training and maintenance of microprocessor-based controls, systems and instruments.

The Syrian government recently expressed serious interest to host and support the

establishment of a regional centre in order to rationalise the diffusion of microprocessor-based applications and to harmonise their selection, operation and maintenance in the region, including the possibility of preparing standards/harmonised guidelines and specifications.

The regional centre would aim at building up the technical capabilities in the region through training trainers and setting up the infrastructure to maintain the instrumentation systems in the region.

It would strive to improve the operation life-cycle of installed systems and to reduce delays and work stoppage of production projects using these systems, thus enhancing the economic productivity of these projects.

Jordan to mark King's birthday with various celebrations, events

the governorate to mark the occasion.

Yarmouk University announced several celebrations to be held on Sunday including art exhibitions and sports events.

The Jordan University for Women announced plans for its own activities and ceremonies to be held between Nov. 13 and Nov. 17. These include exhibitions, seminars and lectures.

The Jerash Department of Education has also organised ceremonies and social activities on the anniversary.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein opened an exhibition of Jordanian stamps Thursday at the Orthodox Club in Amman. The exhibition, organised on the eve of the King's birthday, displayed a large collection of stamps depicting various national occasions. The exhibition was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs.



Abu Nowar stresses no separate peace deal

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will not strike a separate peace deal with Israel and will continue to strive for a comprehensive and just peace, said Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar.

Speaking at a meeting Thursday with heads of Arab news

agencies who covered the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections, the minister said Jordan will never abandon its sister countries.

The Jordanian leadership has always been keen on supporting pan-Arab causes and has always exercised a national role reflecting the country's firm stand based on the ideas

tween the region's countries. With reference to the elections, he said the government worked diligently to guarantee fair and free elections which were held in a very positive atmosphere enabling Jordanian citizens to exercise their constitutional rights.

2,000 Irbid citizens stage march in protest of Nov. 8 election results

AMMAN (I.T.) — About 2,000 people from Irbid Thursday organised a peaceful march to contest results of the parliamentary elections in Irbid District, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Marchers, who were led by candidates who lost on Nov. 8, chanted slogans contesting results of the elections and called for holding the officials supervising the elections responsible for what they maintained were inaccurate results.

Some candidates met with Irbid Governor Fayez Al Abbadi and briefed him on the reasons that led them to contest results of the elections.

Mr. Abbadi stressed the integrity of the elections and informed the candidates that the Interior minister is ready to listen to their observations and comments.

He voiced the government's readiness to provide any information of figures to

any candidate who requests it.

Dr. Shuyab said: "If they were able to fabricate results of the elections, they would not be able to fabricate your genuine will and convictions."

They also cited what they saw as conflicting numbers of voters and the order in which names of winners were announced. Saying there

were different numbers and different orders.

In addition, the interior minister's answer to a question about the delay in announcing results of the Irbid elections, as one of the reasons behind this contesting of result.

They said the minister attributed the delay to a request by some candidates to redo the vote count.

In this respect, the statement noted, none of the candidates had made such a request.

Candidates agreed to send a cable to King Hussein, explaining their position and why they were contesting the results of the Nov. 8 elections.

UNIDO, ESCWA to hold expert meeting on automation, microprocessor controls

AMMAN (I.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCPWA) and the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) will hold a meeting on automation and microprocessor controls in the region from Nov. 15 to 17 in Amman.

Hosted by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology of the University of Jordan,

the meeting will deliberate on the diffusion and operation of electronics instrumentation and microprocessor controls in the Arab countries.

Journalist's tenet: 'We've just got to go on covering wars'

By Robert Fisk

I met Alexandra Tuttle in Sarajevo this summer. A bubbling Francophile American, she travelled with the French press, flak jacket dangling nonchalantly from her shoulder as she set off from the Holiday Inn each morning for the familiar, dangerous routine of reporting on the front lines and hospitals.

Gregarious would be the word that comes to mind. Alexandra was a contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, for whom she had written more than 70 first-rate, analytical stories. We had a silly row one night when she claimed that Iran was a threat to "Saudi democracy", and I tried to convince her that, for all its sins, Iran at least had a parliament while Saudi Arabia, for all its money, had none.

But she was generous enough to take my English cynicism in good heart. She wanted to know about my own home base of Beirut, about why I thought the Gulf war was a tragedy. My answer — that all wars are a tragedy because wars are primarily about death — met with her total agreement. Then I left for northern Bosnia and she returned to her home in Paris, where she kept a much-talked-about dog called George.

A survivor, I thought. We journalists judge people like that these days. Alexandra Tuttle would survive.

So when I flew into Beirut from Cairo a few weeks ago, it was hard to believe the lonely little paragraph I read in the Lebanese papers. Alexandra Tuttle had been killed in Sukhumi, burnt to death in a military aircraft that had been hit by a ground-to-air missile.

Impossible. Survivors don't get killed. But true. Alexandra, one of her close friends told me, had boarded the flight in Tbilisi on Sept. 22, anxious to conduct a second interview with Eduard Shevardnadze who was still holding out in Sukhumi. A German photographer on the flight had second thoughts and disembarked before takeoff, urging Alexandra to do the same. She refused.

She had not even told her news desk of her plans; so she lay for five days in a grave near Sukhumi airport before her employers, and her parents in Maryland, realised she was missing. The plane had broken in two when the Abkhazian missile hit it. Everyone in the front half died; Alexandra was in the cockpit.

The airport was under artillery fire at the time, but someone found her shredded U.S. passport and a crumpled photograph of her dog, George. With permission from the victorious Abkhazians, her family and friends are still hoping to repatriate her remains, if they can find her grave.

Even if we have never met those of our colleagues who pay so terrible a price for their vocation, the statistics of journalistic fatalities are now truly shocking. In 1992, 61 of all nationalities were shot, bombed or knifed to death — the largest number in Turkey, which always heads Index on Censorship's monthly list of countries in which journalists are murdered.

In the past 21 months, 37 journalists have died in the former Yugoslavia alone, many killed deliberately by snipers. David Kaplan, of ABC News, was shot dead near Sarajevo airport on Aug. 13, 1992. The bullet entered his car between the T and V of the "TV" sign pasted on the side; he was not wearing a flak jacket — which is why we all now clank around in 10kg vests and helmets.

The younger we are, the more exposed we are. The first time I drove into Israeli tank fire in southern Lebanon in 1978 — in those days we had no flak jackets — I was so frightened that I started saying crazy things to myself like "Death can't be that bad", or "Well, at least if I die, I'll have another story tomorrow which won't be so risky".

I have often wondered whether the first journalists to die in Croatia, then in Bosnia, did so largely because they were young and inexperienced; because many of them knew only the Hollywood variety of war, where the stars always survive the death of their characters. There is a little Somme waiting for all innocent journalists.

In northern Kurdistan, a young American freelance on his very first war assignment was murdered by Iraqi soldiers. Gad Gross was a driven, brave young man who turned up briefly in Beirut before the Gulf war embraced the slaughter of the Kurds, then set off for the killing fields of northern Iraq in the hope of selling his pictures to an American news magazine. He was shot dead after screaming in rage at the Iraqi soldiers who had just murdered his Kurdish guide.

How should editors react? After three Reuters and an Associated Press journalist were killed by mobs in Mogadishu, most reporters pulled out of Somalia. A few weeks ago the last American journalist left, to the relief of the

press.

Survivors do die, which is why many of us have developed weird habits. Martin Bell of the BBC wears mismatching socks in Bosnia. I try to avoid leaving for a dangerous

country without a flak jacket.

As our lives become steadily more dangerous — and the wars of Eastern Europe become ever more savage — we should rage against the deaths of our colleagues. And we should demand every protection. But the necessity of recording human suffering on an epic scale is worth the risk. And if editors came to feel otherwise, they would be providing a miserable memorial to those who have died.

Put painfully, we've just got to go on covering wars. And those are not last words — The Independent.



Alexandra Tuttle died when the Abkhazians shot down the plane taking her to meet the besieged Shevardnadze (File photo)

World water shortages spreading

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — People from Los Angeles to Beijing to Riyadh are having to look further and further away for fresh water, and a new report says water scarcity is a spreading global problem.

Proposals to tow around icebergs from Antarctica or to fill giant plastic bladders with lake water will not be enough to quench the world's thirst, said Bob Engelman, co-author of the Population Action International Report. Other ideas include building desalination plants or international water pipelines.

"Expense keeps getting in the way," Mr. Engelman said in an interview.

Libya rejects sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

equipment. It expands an air and arms embargo in effect since April 1992.

However, it fails short of doing what most critics say is the only way to force Libya to turn over the suspects: banning the sale of Libyan oil.

Libya's economy relies on daily oil exports of 1.5 million barrels that generate \$9 billion a year in revenue.

The new resolution, adopted 11-0 vote with four abstentions, was pushed through by the United States, Britain and France. Britain and the United States insist the two men be tried in one of their countries for the bombing of the American jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. France wants to question four other Libyans in the 1989 bombing of a French jet that killed 171 people.

The bottom line of this is simply that the rate of population growth in countries experiencing water scarcity is vastly outpacing population growth of the world as a whole," he said.

By 2025, one out of three people will be living in countries with inadequate fresh water supplies, said the report "sustaining water: Population and the future of renewable water supplies."

The current ratio is about one out of 15.

The report is based on projections of population growth for 149 countries, combined with known data on renewable fresh water supplies. The country with the biggest supply is Iceland, with 666,667 cubic metres of water available per

person per year. The lowest is in Djibouti with 23 cubic metres.

Djibouti and 19 other countries are listed as "water-scarce", with less than 1,000 cubic metres per person.

That's not enough to sustain human health or economic development, scientists say.

Eight more countries have what scientist call "water-stressed" conditions, with less than 1,700 cubic metres per person.

Over the next three decades, between 46 and 52 countries will be either "water-stressed" or "water-scarce", the report said.

"There are no substitutes as human populations grow, there's less renewable water for each person," said Mr. Engelman.

The result is that countries are either forced to limit the use of water or deal with the problem of disease as people turn to untreated water.

The report noted that some countries will suffer much more than others. Britain and Iran, for example, now have about equal populations and accessible water supplies, but the projection shows Iran will have about one-half the available water per person in 2025 while Britain's per capita supplies will dwindle by only about 5 per cent.

Even in the United States, which has abundant fresh water supplies nationally, regional demands often exceed supply, the report said. It cited efforts by water-poor urban areas in California to draw from water-rich areas around the state.

It also noted much of the country's dependence on the deep aquifer that runs from South Dakota to Texas and

says signs of scarcity and contamination have been emerging in recent years.

Far worse, though, are conditions in Saudi Arabia, which already is on the "water scarce" lists and depends almost entirely on water that has taken centuries to accumulate deep within the ground.

"Estimates of the lifespan of Saudi Water reserves vary widely, with one estimate suggesting they could run out early in the next century," the report said.

In Mexico City, the report said, demand for water and sanitation services already exceeds supply, with pumping of water causing shifting and subsiding land, falling water tables and a deteriorating water supply.

In China, it said, more than 200 major cities already lack adequate water. Water tables under Beijing are dropping three to six feet a year, and the city is looking for new supplies over 1,000 kilometres away.

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American Jewish peace activists say peace in the region should be equitable

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two American Jewish peace activists who were in Amman two days ago said there can be no peace in the region without granting the Palestinians their rights.

The two, Ira Grupper, national cochair of the New Jewish Agenda, and Susan Kahn, a member of the organisation, were on a visit to the region at the invitation of several individuals and organisations.

The New Jewish Agenda was founded in 1980 by "people from the United States and Canada." The organisation issued that same year two resolutions: one calling for a state of Palestine alongside Israel, with secured boundaries for both, and the second asking for recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"Needless to describe the reaction of the Jewish community in the U.S. and Canada," said Mr. Grupper.

"The organisation has taken stands in support of peace and democracy in Central America. We have undertaken to deal concretely with the problem between the African-American and the Jewish communities in

the U.S.," said Mr. Grupper.

Such stands are not destined to have a long life. So "for economic and political reasons we were forced to close our national office in New York," said Mr. Grupper.

Chapters of the organisation still function in different other cities and in Canada.

Mr. Grupper and Ms. Kahn, in the region on a mission of peace were in Israel before coming to Jordan. They had been called there by Yesh Gvul, literary translating into "there is a limit," an organisation of Israeli army reservists who had refused to pick up arms "against their Palestinian sisters and brothers."

Another invitation had come from the society of St. Yves, a Catholic human rights monitoring organisation based in Jerusalem and several Palestinian organisations.

"The reason Yesh Gvul was anxious for us to come is because there is confusion about the peace process. The peace movement in the U.S. has to be made aware of the latest developments in the occupied areas and in Israel proper," said Mr. Grupper.

"The organisation adopted more and more causes, it also made itself more enemies.

"The organisation has

been taken stands in support of peace and democracy in Central America. We have undertaken to deal concretely with the problem between the African-American and the Jewish communities in

To support his argument,

Mr. Grupper mentioned the building of 70,000 housing units in Jerusalem.

Other meetings were with members of the Knesset (Israeli parliament), the representative of the press office of the foreign ministry, Palestinian and Jewish peace organisations and representatives of the settlers in one right wing community.

In Jordan, they attended various meetings scheduled for them and met Omar Khathib, chargé d'affaires at the Palestinian embassy, Asa'ad Abdul Rahman, on the board of directors of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and members of the Jordanian peace delegation Marwan Duhun, Taiseer Aruri and Jawad Anani.

"Jordanians are warm, understanding and politically cognizant of the significance of the peace process will have not only in Palestine but also in Syria, Jordan, Israel," said Mr. Grupper.

"His organisation, which two and a half years ago numbered 6,000 members, faces problems that reflect the dilemma of the progressive movement in the U.S. and the world."

"We were vilified by the Jewish establishment over many years," said Mr. Grupper, who also explains the personal reasons behind his visit to the region.

"I want to make a difference between the feeling of guilt for what is being done to Palestinians and the understanding that I, as an individual, am responsible for my acts. I do not believe in guilt, but I believe in mob psychology. I do not feel very good about what is happening to my Palestinian brothers and sisters."

While finding the visits fruitful, Mr. Grupper acknowledges that after meeting with all the people they have, the feeling is that the majority favours peace, but is also "wary of how words on paper will be translated in times of peace."

Leaving Amman for Paris, the two peace messengers are to report on their activities to "Jewish and non-Jewish peace forces."

Back home, they are scheduled to appear before the media in a couple of places" and might organise a national tour to speak about "what we have observed and what we feel about the peace process." At the same time, the two activists will be trying to facilitate meetings of Arab and Jewish peace organisations.

The reason for the existence of their organisation is that "there was for too long an old Jewish agenda which conciliated sexism and racism and was not in pursuit of social justice."

Islamists, liberals resume debate in Kuwait

By William Maclean
Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwaiti Islamists and liberals, scarcely a year after they agreed a truce, are again vigorously promoting their conflicting models for Kuwaiti society.

The robust exchanges in the press, in public and in parliament, pick up on the political contest they tacitly suspended last year in the interests of a larger cause — the restoration of parliamentary democracy after a six-year break.

The focus of the revived debate between the Islamists and the liberals — a diverse collection of leftists, Arab nationalists and democrats — is an Islamist proposal to amend the constitution to make Islam the sole source of law.

Article two of the constitution now says Islam is "a main" — thus not the only — source of legislation.

Other Islamist demands include a ban on bank interest and some commissions in trade deals, restrictions on the portrayal of women in the media and a public authority to encourage strict Muslim behaviour.

The Islamist-liberal debate uses strong language.

"This group of... extremists, this limited group of (liberal) columnists — their scorpions of hatred are not released and

their winds of malice do not blow unless they sniff the scent of Islam stirred by the activity of its sons and promoters," Islamist parliamentarian Khaled Al Adwa wrote in a newspaper.

"They are a very limited group that the Kuwaiti Muslim people recognise, know well and whose danger they realise."

"Muslim people will always vote for Islamic voices and discard other ideologies," said Abdurrazak Al Shayeji, a member of the hardline Salaf (ancestors) Islamic group.

He was quoted as saying the United States, which led the alliance that ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in 1991, was busy working against a worldwide Islamic revival.

But an outspoken parliamentarian, press and discussion groups known as diwanies have created lively intellectual traditions and women hold senior business and government jobs. Women may also drive, for example, whereas in Saudi Arabia they may not.

The Islamist-liberal debate uses strong language.

"We have been and always will be a contradictory society," he told the English-language Arab Times newspaper.

"We will be able to tune into a state religious channel and MTV (a U.S. satellite TV music channel) at the same

time, and will a change in article two be able to change this contradiction?

"The whole idea (of amending article two) looks antagonistic to personal freedom and choice, to women's rights, to the rights of the most educated in society, to private enterprise and to the foreign community," said Shafeeq Ghabra, another associate professor of political science.

Both Islamists and liberals set aside their differences to campaign for the restoration of parliament after the Gulf war.

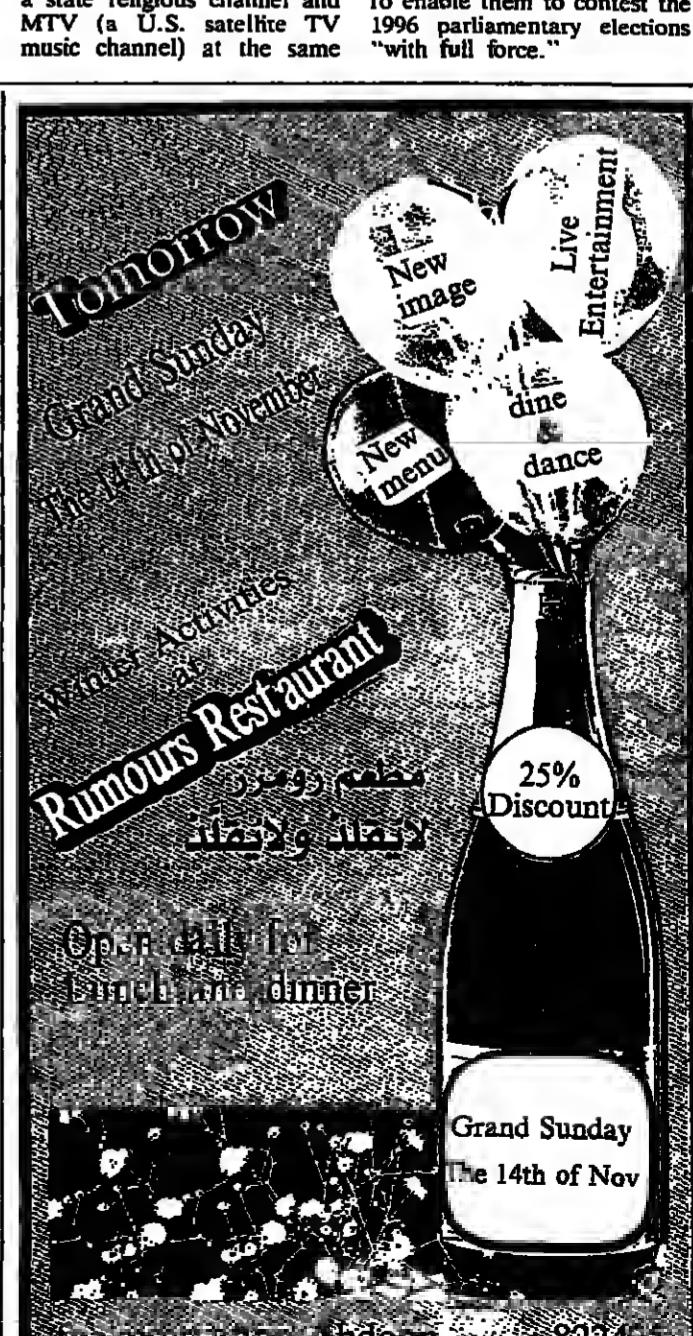
The opposition dominated elections in October 1992 and the Islamists are the largest and most cohesive component in the opposition.

A core of 15 Islamist members can call on an equal number of centrists or independents whose constituencies are fluid enough for them to vote for the Islamists when Islam is an issue.

Liberal columnist Abdullatif Al Duwaij said one aim of liberal Kuwaitis, who identify with 10 to 15 members, was to build enough popular backing to enable them to contest the 1996 parliamentary elections "with full force."

TAIWAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES

The delegation of 35 businessmen from 26 major suppliers in Taiwan are in Amman now, and will be pleased to receive any Jordanian businessman concerned today, Saturday the 13th of November at the Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. so, don't miss this golden opportunity to make business with Taiwan and get a profit deal!



'Dragons' seen headed for record 1993 borrowing on capital markets

PARIS (AFP) — Asia has raised more funds on world capital markets than Latin America so far this year and dynamic Asian economies (DAEs) appear headed for record external borrowing in 1993, the OECD has said.

Eastern Asia raised a total of \$17.9 billion against Latin America's \$17.7 billion, with China accounting 4.6 billion or one-quarter of the total, according to provisional data for the eight months to August released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Commercial borrowing by eastern Asian residents was up by 46 per cent over the year-earlier level of \$12.3 billion and was close to the 1992 total of \$19.2 billion according to the OECD's latest report on financial market trends.

Analysts said the sharply increased recourse to private finance by authorities and corporations in both regions was clearly linked with their strong growth performance.

Overall, borrowing facilities for developing countries as a group rose by nearly one-third year-on-year to \$43 billion — compared with annual totals of about \$47 billion both in 1991 and 1992.

But while key Latin American countries, slowly emerging from the debt emergency of the 1980s, relied heavily on the securities markets, including the sale of a significant amount of equity to foreign investors, international funding for eastern Asia continued to be based mainly on syndicated bank lending, the report said.

The region secured \$10 billion worth of bank loans, a 39 per cent year-on-year increase, and was "set to exceed by a comfortable margin" the 1992 total amount of \$11.9 billion the OECD said.

The survey stressed that lending to Chinese residents, which became the region's biggest borrowers last year, had been "particularly brisk" with credits for \$2.8 billion being completed by end-August.

It said China had become an increasingly active borrower in

response to its rapid economic expansion "after an interruption in the wake of the political events of 1989."

Lending to China by banks reporting to the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS), which monitors international bank lending, rose by about \$8 billion in the two years to March 1993, raising the total outstanding to \$38.9 billion by end-March, OECD analysts said.

They noted that although spreads for Chinese borrowers remained fairly wide — some 100 basis points — government-owned finance institutions, public enterprises including airlines, and utilities had brought a large number of transactions to the syndicated market in recent months.

As for the fast-growing DAEs — Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand — their syndicated borrowing topped \$6 billion, up by 46 per cent over the level recorded as of end-August, last year.

This included credits totalling \$1.3 billion for Thailand, \$1.4 billion for South Korea, \$1.3 billion for Hong Kong and \$1.1 billion for Malaysia.

Taking account of a large volume of loans in the pipeline, this year's DAE borrowing is likely to attain record levels, the report said.

Indonesia, another major borrower, secured loans worth \$1.1 billion during the eight-month period.

Asian borrowers at the same time doubled their recourse to the securities markets, completing bond issues totalling just under \$7 billion by August.

South Korean private companies and public finance institutions remained active in this market, raising about \$2.3 billion, while China's total of about \$1.8 billion was "the largest ever recorded."

The Chinese raised 80 billion yen in the yen markets, and secured the balance through Eurodollar and Yankee bond offerings.

Thailand also boosted its operations in the securities

markets during the period, raising \$800 million against \$700 million in 1992 as a whole, the OECD report noted.

The report pointed out that private investors increased the amount they gave or lent to the Third World by a half last year while the rich world's governments cut back slightly on aid.

The Paris-based think tank said the net flow of resources to developing countries from the OECD's 22 wealthy member states rose 23 per cent in 1992 from 1991 to a total of \$165.5 billion.

Private money outstripped public money for the first time as private donors, investors and lenders, especially international banks, pushed \$94.0 billion into developing countries, 51 per cent more than the year before.

By contrast, official finance fell to \$68.1 billion from \$70.1 billion in 1991, including a cutback in aid to \$54.9 billion from \$57.4 billion.

But the OECD said the increased funds benefited only a relatively small group of more advanced developing countries in South East Asia and Latin America and some big countries like China, India and Indonesia. Very poor nations, especially in Africa, got little.

Funds for Africa south of the Sahara actually fell in 1992 by some \$4 billion to under \$15 billion and private investors, overall, were actually taking money out rather than putting it in.

The OECD said the surge in private financing was dominated by a tripling in bank lending to \$37.7 billion in 1992.

It said this meant an overall increase in the proportion of money going into the Third World that would have to be paid back. But in general the funds were put into productive ventures in countries with sustainable debt burdens and so this should not create a major problem.

"Indeed, in many cases, the growth of private flows can be seen as a seal of approval from the international financial community on the reform efforts of the countries attracting

these flows," it said.

Looking to the future, the OECD said the flows of private resources into the developing world could be more volatile than public funds but the better health of both international banks and Third World debtors after the 1980s debt crisis should help to sustain the expansion of lending.

The temptation of higher returns than in the developed world would continue to attract investing institutions which were also looking for ways to diversify their risks, it said.

Economic reforms in the countries on receiving the funds should also help to win and maintain investors' confidence.

The OECD broke down net flows of resources to developing countries as follows (billions of dollars):

Type of finance	1992	1991	1990
Official	68.1	70.1	72.1
Aids	54.9	57.4	54.5
Export credits	3.3	1.7	4.7
Private	94.0	62.2	58.7
Investment	28.8	26.4	27.9
Bank lending	37.7	11.0	15.5
Aid	5.2	5.2	5.3
Total	165.5	134.0	135.4

Vietnam pledged \$1.8b in aid

PARIS (R) — Vietnam, emerging after years of isolation from the global financial community, has received pledges of aid for next year totalling \$1.8 billion from governments and development agencies. A World Bank statement said that aid donors at a two-day meeting in Paris had agreed to promise the money as a result of what it called Vietnam's remarkable success in transforming its economy from a centrally planned to a market system. Roughly 60 per cent of the money will come from individual governments, led by Japan, while the rest will be provided by such international bodies as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), a World Bank official said. After decades of war on its soil, Vietnam began its return to the fold of international finance this summer when the United States eased its embargo against the southwest Asian country.

U.S., Japan appear content to let dollar in 100 to 110 yen range

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar should continue to strengthen against European currencies in coming quarters as interest rates in Europe decline further. The U.S. and Japan both appear content to let the dollar remain indefinitely in the 100-to-110 range of recent months. But upward pressure on the yen is likely to reemerge next year even if Japan's current account surplus narrows somewhat. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to 100-105 while falling to yen 95 over the next 12 months.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index was down about 0.2 per cent for the week ended Nov. 5. This weakness was fairly broadly based as the greenback fell versus four of the six currencies we regularly monitor. Even the strength relative to the other two currencies amounted to less than 0.5 per cent. As a result, short term momentum oscillators have turned down, suggesting that the first phase of the rally from October's low is complete.

At the same time, the medium term oscillators are turning up. This would imply that any nearby weakness is likely to be a short term (counter trend) event in the context of a renewed upturn. If so, that correction is likely to be relatively well contained, with nearby support indicated at 93.50; if, indeed, a new upturn is underway, worst case support is likely to be around 92.25.

Resistance for the dollar index is indicated at this past summer's 95.80 high; a rally decisively through that level would allow for a challenge of 97.50-98.00.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar remained at the 107 level against the yen in recent days, even as it strengthened against European currencies. The yen is typically less sensitive to interest rate differentials than the European currencies and has reacted little to the recent sharp rise in U.S. short rates. Recent comments by Fred Bergsten, a Washington-based economist whose views are considered influential within the Clinton administration, may have helped boost the yen. Mr. Bergsten recommended that central banks take concerted action if the dollar rises to above the 110 yen level to help enforce a target range of 100-to-110 yen. He also noted that the yen will need to rise to the 95 level against the dollar to curtail Japan's current account surplus if Japan's economy remains weak. This view is consistent with our forecast for further yen strength in 1994.

Our Tokyo economics unit recently revised down its growth forecast for Japan in 1994 from 1.5 per cent to 0.8 per cent and looks for current account surplus of \$125 billion next year compared to \$137 billion this year. We would not be surprised to see further yen appreciation next year if Japan's external surplus remains high against the backdrop of a sluggish growth. We maintain our 6- and 12-month forecasts for the yen-USD rate of 100 and 95 respectively. Over the next twelve months, we look for the yen to trade in a broad range of 90-to-110

against the dollar.

Technical view: The Japanese yen rose 0.3 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. It has generally been our view that the weakness demonstrated by the Japanese yen versus the U.S. dollar since mid-August should ultimately serve to correct the excesses that were built up during the course of the 1993 upturn. In that regard, we still think that there is a reasonable possibility that the currency can still move through the 110 JY/U.S. area, and we can say that the minimum requirements for a complete correction have already been satisfied.

Potentially important support at 108-109 has already been tested, but short term momentum oscillators have turned to the upside and medium term sentiment readings are nicely oversold (though still with a downward bias). It would appear, then, that the correction has already achieved many of the objectives that it needed to achieve. From this point, a rally through 104 would start to turn medium term momentum indicators back up, would indicate that the corrective process was all but over, and would likely confirm our basic view that the larger, dominant yen upturn is still intact.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The pound slipped against both the U.S. and the DM, trading recently at 1.47 U.S./; and DM/ 2.49. The pound should weaken further against both currencies after Nov. 30, when we expect a cut in interest rates, along with the presentation of the budget. We forecast a depreciation to U.S./ 1.41 in 12 months, as U.S. interest rates rise gradually beginning in mid-1994. Against the DM, however, we are forecasting appreciation after near-term weakness, to DM/ 2.61 in 12 months, driven by our forecast of a 175 basis point decline in short-term DM interest rates.

Also underlying the pound's expected rise against the DM are our above-consensus forecast of 1994 U.K. growth at 3.2 per cent and our below-consensus projection of no German growth in 1994.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. The relative strength properties for this currency remain stronger than those of some of the other European currencies. Medium term sentiment has been improving of late, while short term put/call sentiment readings are already oversold. In addition, short term momentum has turned back to the upside.

All of this implies that the currency is nicely positioned for a rally. However, medium term momentum has a downward bias and, until this is alleviated, nearby strength is likely to be limited. There is important long term chart support at 1.40-1.42 U.S./; the ability to hold near this level in coming weeks could well improve the chance that a longer term bottom is forming. More medium term support exists near 1.46. By contrast, important long term resistance exists near \$1.60, with medium term resistance in the 1.55-1.58 range.

Versus the DM, sterling has been able to maintain its relative strength. Medium term momentum for the cross-rate appears to

be bottoming, but short term oscillators are very overbought and may delay the full impact of medium term improvement for a few weeks. Such a development would do much to support the currency's developing relative strength position. The cross-rate is testing resistance exists at 2.50-2.53. Important support is at 2.43-2.44.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: After surging to the DM 1.70 level in early November the dollar has pulled back only marginally to the DM 1.69 level. The U.S.-German gap in two-year rates, which has been closely correlated with the Deutschmark exchange rate in recent years, has narrowed to about 120 basis points in early May. Mounting evidence that the U.S. economy is beginning to experience more robust growth — our estimate is 4.2 per cent for the current quarter — has pushed money market rates up sharply in the U.S. in recent days as short-term interest rates in Germany have declined. Relative business cycle and interest rate trends continue to point toward weaker European currencies in the year ahead. A 2 per cent decline in German industrial production in September virtually erased a 2.2 per cent gain in the previous month, confirming that Germany's economy continues to stagnate.

Even if U.S. growth slows back to the 2.5 per cent-to-3.0 per cent range next year, as is widely expected, U.S. short-term interest rates should remain in a relatively narrow range next year, while short-term rates in Germany fall to 4.0 per cent-4.5 per cent. We continue to look for dollar to reach DM 1.80-DM 1.85 over the next six to 12 months respectively.

Technical view: The Deutschmark dropped 0.5 per cent week-to-week versus the U.S. dollar. However, short term momentum has turned up, indicating a nearby rally. In line with this, both short and medium term sentiment indicators have been improving. At the same time, medium term momentum has the potential to maintain its new-found weakness through January. This latter point would suggest that nearby currency strength is likely to be short lived. The currency's decline through the 1.69 DM/U.S. \$ level early in the week has done much to imply that any such DM rally will likely be only a reaction within a new downturn (with decent support at 1.65-1.66), rather than a full-blown test of the recent highs at 1.59-1.61 and tends to confirm the view that the currency's dominant longer term downturn is still in force.

This implies that an eventual decline to 1.75 and beyond remains a reasonably strong probability. The mark/yen cross-rate has moved into the benchmark 62-64 trading range. However, short term momentum is bottoming even as medium term momentum remains constructive. Benchmark support is just above 62.00 in the sense that a break of that level could imply a test of the August low near 60.00. The 66.50-67.00 level has proven to be good resistance, and a decisive rally back through that benchmark would do much to signal further strength toward important chart resistance at 70-72.

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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
QUARTERLY MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/11/1993 - 18/11/1993					
WEEKLY REPORT					
COMPANY'S NAME					
TRADING VOLUME	PRIV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRIV. PRICE	OPENING PRICE
JD	JD	JD	JD	JD	JD
ABU DHABI (R)					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	499,330	100.2000	101.000	102.500	
STATE BANK INVESTMENT BANK	17,371	0.1120	0.1120	0.1120	0.1120
UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT BANK	21,400	0.1020	0.1020	0.1020	0.1020
JORDAN SAVINGS BANK	151,184	0.1020	0.1020	0.1020	0.1020
JORDAN JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	150,382	0.1050	0.1070	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	47,900	2.120	2.100	2.140	2.120
JOHN DEERE FOR MAINT & INVESTMENT	29,701	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	714	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT FOR BUILDING	1,000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	57,471	1.7000	1.7700	1.7500	1.7700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	9,756	7.4400	7.5000	7.5000	7.4400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,779	2.1000	2.1000	2.1000	2.1000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7,748	7.7500	7.7500	7.7500	7.7500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	20,112	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	76,072	2.1000	2.1000	2.1000	2.1000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	325	2.350	2.350	2.350	2.350
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	500,000	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	52,500	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	8,279	4.7000	4.7000	4.7000	4.7000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,495	2.1000	2.1000	2.1000	2.1000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,779	1.930	1.930	1.930	1.930
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	292	0.9000	0.9100	0.9100	0.9000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	20,112	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7,618	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	146,757	2.170	2.100	2.170	2.170
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	29,701	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	502,1000	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	542,859	1.0100	1.0200	1.0200	1.0100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	8,242	3.200	3.200	3.190	3.200
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,164	7.910	7.900	7.900	7.910
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	605	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.300
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	69,722	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,147	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	234,205	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	146,757	2.170	2.100	2.170	2.170
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	27,363	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	502,1000	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050	0.1050
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JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	146,757	2.170	2.100	2.170	2.170
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	27,363	0.1050	0.1050		

Sri Lankan troops fight grim battle against Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan security forces rescued some troops Friday from a northern military base where up to 250 soldiers are feared killed in a battle still raging with Tamil rebels, military officials said.

Reinforcements had yet to reach the besieged defenders, they said.

"Our reinforcements could not make an amphibious landing close at the camp last night because of enemy resistance," a senior military official told Reuters.

"But we have to reach the defenders without delay or the camp will fall," he said. They were determined to hold the camp.

The attack on the isolated Pooneryn Base on the shores of Jaffna Lagoon was the worst defeat for government forces since the Tamil revolt for a separate homeland began 10 years ago.

Fighting was continuing Friday, the military said.

The surprise rebel strike raised questions as to whether the government should continue its relentless battle against the rebels or opt for negotiations.

"The writing is on the wall. The government can't fight the war," said retired Air Force Commander Harry Gunatilaka.

The air force bombed rebel targets in the Jaffna district Friday but denied a report that the region's main government office was hit.

A Defence Ministry statement said many of the defenders had re-grouped after scattering in confusion during Thursday's attack.

"Until reinforcements are in position and the situation brought fully under control, the casualty figures of the security forces cannot still be declared with certainty," it said.

Officials said they feared 250 soldiers had been killed in the attack. Northern residents gave a figure of between 250 and 500. About 60 rebels are said to have been killed.

Army reinforcements sent by sea were waiting off the coast after several attempts to land near the base were thwarted by the rebels, officials said.

But 30 sailors and six soldiers broke through rebel lines at dawn and waded across the lagoon to another army base, they said. An earlier report said 40 sailors had been rescued.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas were using captured 120 mm heavy mortars to fire at the base.

Defence analysts and diplomats said the fall of the camp

could give the Tigers unhindered access to their northern stronghold in the Jaffna peninsula.

The base was set up to prevent rebel boat traffic across the lagoon, which separates the peninsula from the mainland.

Commander Gunatilaka said President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga might have to ease rhetoric on the war after the latest debacle.

Mr. Wijetunga, in office since May, has often said the crisis is a "terrorist" problem and not an ethnic one. He has vowed to wipe out the rebels, backing military hardliners, including Army Chief Cecil Waidyaratne.

After a battle that left 350 rebels and soldiers dead and destroyed 200 to 300 boats, the army withdrew. The rebels are said to have been using the pier the next day.

More than 30,000 people — guerrillas, military personnel and civilians — have died in the conflict since 1983.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary committee trying to end Sri Lanka's 10-year-old ethnic war recommended in a report presented to parliament Friday that minority Tamil demands

for autonomy be met by more devolution of power.

But the Parliamentary Select Committee, appointed two years ago, failed to agree on a peace formula to end the war by Tamil guerrillas for a separate state in the island's north and east.

The parliamentary report, presented by committee Chairman Mangala Moonesinghe of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), said the devolution contemplated in previous legislation had not been fully implemented.

The committee was appointed in mid-1991 and held the first of its 47 meetings the following November.

Made up of members of the ruling party and other parties in parliament, the committee was expected to "arrive at a political solution to the question involving the devolution of power to the north and the east."

Tamil want the two provinces to be treated as one region. Sinhalese and Muslim politicians say doing that would mean virtually giving in to the rebels' demand for a separate homeland.

The report said the majority of committee members favored greater devolution but it could not decide on the main issue of dividing the provinces or keeping them as one unit.



Sri Lankan soldiers search a vehicle Friday as part of a stepped up security measure in the wake of a massive Tamil Tiger rebel attack on a military base in the island's north (AFP photo)

U.K. queen mother sends aide for cop video

LONDON (R) — The queen mother was so disappointed to miss the last episode of a television series featuring a gritty Glasgow police detective that a video of it was rushed to her London palace. At the age of 93, Queen Elizabeth's mother, known as the "Queen Mum," had sat spellbound through "Taggart," which is regularly watched by 14 million viewers across Britain. "We received a call from an enquiry last week saying the queen mother had seen the first two episodes, but had unfortunately missed the third and could we possibly send them tape," a spokesman for Scottish Television said Friday. "We were very happy to comply with her request."

Angie Dickinson refuses tribute

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — "This Is Your Life" tribute to actress Angie Dickinson ended about as quickly as it began, with the surprised TV star exclaiming "not on your life" and fleeing. Left behind were host Pat Sajak and the guests waiting to honour her, including Bob Hope, Burt Reynolds, Earl Holliman, Jackie Collins and friends and relatives, said NBC spokeswoman Marlo Zinberg. The tribute was to be part of a "This Is Your Life" special on Nov. 26 on NBC featuring Miss Dickinson and another, unidentified celebrity whose segment has yet to be taped, Zinberg said. "They should have known — I turned it down years ago," Miss Dickinson told Army Archerd, columnist for the trade paper Daily Variety. Later, Miss Dickinson told U.S. television, "I think it boils down to vanity. I really do. If they brought all these people... I would just be sobbing and trying not to cry and I don't look good crying. Otherwise, I'd probably have done the show."

The plane, crew and other passengers were sent back to China 4 1/2 hours later after police searched the aircraft to see whether it contained electronic spying equipment operated by the Chinese government. No such equipment was found.

The two men took control of the China Northern Airlines MD-82 jet with 82 people on board as it overflew Shanghai on a flight between the North Chinese city of Changchun and Fuzhou in the south.

The hijackers said they were members of China's Democracy Movement and were present in Beijing's Tiananmen Square when troops crushed pro-democracy protest with heavy loss of life on June 4, 1989. "We came to Taiwan to find democracy. Mainland China is in darkness," one of the men, Li Xiangyu, 35, an employee of a Chinese government economic agency, told a news conference.

The other hijacker was identified as Han Shuxue, 40, a medical doctor. Both were from the northeastern province of Jilin. They claimed two attaché cases containing equipment.

"I'd rather die than return to the mainland," said Mr. Li, who appeared relaxed and confident. He said he was prepared for a long prison sentence in Taiwan.

In Beijing an official of CAAAC, China's aviation authority, said Friday that Taiwan should return the hijackers immediately.

Taiwan, which has accused China of deliberately allowing the hijackings to take place, possibly in an effort to test its air defences, denounced the most recent incident.

The pilot of Friday's plane at first refused to fly back to China without the hijackers but later relented, police said.

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Fighting continued Friday and more casualties were expected, according to police.

A woman was killed and two people injured in the northern Kashmir town of Baramulla when a grenade hurled by militants at a bunker missed its target, exploding on the road, police said.

Four militants were killed in a gunbattle late Thursday with border guards in Badgam district in central Kashmir, PTI said, and one person died in a clash between militants and Indian troops at Shalimar, also in central Kashmir.

Government officials held another day of talks Friday with representatives of the 50 armed Muslim separatists holed up in the Hazratbal Mosque but reported no progress towards ending the stalemate.

Five Muslim militants and

7th Chinese plane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — A Chinese doctor and civil servant armed with surgical knives and fake bombs hijacked a Chinese airliner to Taiwan Friday and said they were pro-democracy dissidents seeking political asylum.

It was the seventh hijacking of a Chinese plane to Taiwan this year, and the third in eight days.

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The men said they went on the run together after the killings at Tiananmen and tried but failed to escape from China through its southwest province of Yunnan. They said it was hard for them to obtain jobs in China because of their background.

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6 teams battle for last 9 places in World Cup



Norway's Nalle (centre) duels with Turkish defenders during their World Cup qualifying match in Istanbul, Turkey (AFP photo)

LONDON (Agencies) — England almost certainly won't make it to next year's World Cup in the United States. Italy and Argentina could miss out, too.

The last round of qualifying matches are being staged Wednesday, with the prospect that three of the 1990 semi-finalists may not play in the 1994 competition.

The fourth, Germany, is already there, but it gained an automatic berth because it is the defending champion.

Joining the Germans are the United States, another automatic qualifier as host nation, and title favourite Brazil, which qualified two months ago.

But the rest of the teams that have qualified hardly read like a World Cup who's who — Colombia, Bolivia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Russia, Greece, Norway, Sweden and Mexico.

Sweden was runner-up when it hosted the competition in 1958. Russia, then the Soviet Union, was a semi-finalist in 1966. None of the others have ever reached that far.

While some outsiders have come through the qualifying rounds, some of soccer's mightiest teams are in danger of missing out on the first World Cup in the United States.

Argentina, a two-time champion which lost to Germany in the 1990 final in Rome, has been forced into a play-off with Australia. The two teams tied 1-1 in Sydney two weeks ago, and whoever loses the Nov. 17 second leg in Buenos Aires goes out.

So far, only four European teams other than Germany have qualified. Eight more European berths remain to be filled.

Denmark, the European champion, still has not qualified, neither has England, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. They have all left until the last game.

England has only a tiny chance of making it.

The 1966 champion has to win the San Marino by seven goals and then hope that Poland, which already has been eliminated, can beat the Dutch at home.

"Our hope is to go out with a bang," said England manager Graham Taylor, who could be facing his last match after 3½ years in charge. "I hope the miracle will occur. If we find"

Cantona gets 4 match ban

ZURICH (AFP) — Manchester United's Eric Cantona has been suspended for four UEFA club matches for "improper behaviour" following his sending off at the end of last week's European Cup match against Turkish side Galatasaray.

UEFA's disciplinary committee Friday revealed their decision the French player had "behaved in a particularly improper manner towards the re-

feree."

Cantona also allegedly suggested referee Kurth Rothlisberger was corrupt by claiming some referees took bribes, but UEFA decided to take no action following his outburst.

Cantona later denied making the allegations.

English champions Manchester United drew 0-0 in Turkey but were eliminated on the away goals rule.

Becker survives scare to reach EC quarters

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

WEST EAST
* K 10 9 8 5 * 9 8 2
* 10 9 8 7 5 5 2
* 10 9 8 7 5 5 2
* K 7 * J 2

SOUTH
* Q 3
* A K
* 8 7 4
* A Q 10 8 5

The bidding: South West North East
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

There are some hands where the only real chance to make your contract is so poor that you become a realistic consideration. Besides, if you pull off a swindle, you can never afford it for years — to the discomfiture of your opponents. This hand is from yesterday's Grand National Teams competition.

To pull off a swindle is not what we consider winning tactics.

even if you can be sure partner has at least one of them controlled. The result was a three-no-trump contract which, to put it mildly, was a disaster.

West led the six of spades, ducked around to South's queen. The only legitimate play for the contract was to find East with a doubleton king of clubs, a 4-1-1-1 against shot. In addition, to take advantage of that distribution, declarer would have to cross to dummy's ace of spades as the entry for the club finesse, leaving North-South wide open in two suits.

Rather than risk such exposure, declarer decided to trade on my ignorance of the diamond situation by leading the queen of clubs and West, anxious to prevent me from being the king of clubs as an entry and expecting East to hold the ace of clubs, followed low. Declarer continued by handing out the ace of clubs and quickly wrapped up 11 tricks against a red-faced West.

At another table, North became declarer at three no trump after West overcalled one spade. East led a spade to the queen, king and ace and, when the club finesse lost, the defenders took the next 10 tricks in spades and diamonds. Down seven!

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LOST

Two dalmatian dogs white with black spots, male and female, five and four months old answering to the names of Jumbo and Zoya.

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S. Arabia beat Jordan 69-53 at Asian Basketball Championships

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN'S national basketball team Friday lost a good opportunity to qualify for the Asian Championships, second round when they lost 69-53 to Saudi Arabia.

The Kingdom's team, which left Amman for Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, is grouped with titanic holders China, Pakistan, Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

Assuming that Jordan can beat both Pakistan and Thailand, a win over Saudi Arabia would have qualified them to the second round in which eight teams will be fighting for the title and top twelfth places to qualify for the World Championships in Canada.

However, losing the first and most important match has diminished the chances of qualifying and Jordan will most probably end up playing for 8-18th places.

Saudi Arabia looked like they would be the eventual winners of the match, playing

in a more coherent and confident manner.

Marwan Ma'touq gave Jordan a 15-14 lead with three pointer, however from then on, the Saudis adopted a tight defense, as Saeedi was the only one scoring for Jordan alongside Saliba. All-time greats Murad and Hilal Barakat or Samir Murqos and three-point experts Matouq and Yousef Zaghoul were well below their usual level. They were depending on individual skills.

The Saudis led 59-46 and 65-51 before winning the match 69-53 on the opening day of the 17th Asian Basketball Championship.

Jordan next play Pakistan Sunday in another Group A match.

Group B includes South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

Group C includes Japan, Iran, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, while Taiwan, N. Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia and Bangladesh are in Group D.

The top two teams from

each group will qualify for the second round, where the four winning teams will compete for the title and top four positions and the losers will play for 5-8th places.

The Jordanian team will have to win the next two matches against Pakistan and Thailand and hope that Saudi Arabia lose to China and another team in order to have the chance to move to the second round.

Jordan had finished eighth among 15 countries in the 1983 championships in Hong Kong. In 1985 in Malaysia, they finished sixth, and in 1991 in Japan they finished eighth.

At the moment it seems all hopes for an advanced standing in the current championships have almost faded away.

Meanwhile, in other matches Taiwan beat Kuwait 76-65; North Korea overcame Malaysia 75-70; Thailand beat Pakistan 91-70 and the United Arab Emirates scored a 74-70 victory over the Philippines.

Ivanov retires after world weightlifting title win

MELBOURNE (R) — Bulgarian Olympic champion Ivan Ivanov picked up his fourth title with a world record of 277.5 kg in the new 54-kg class on the first day of the World Weightlifting Championships, and then said he was retiring.

Ivanov, 22, won the title at the new weight on his last lift of the competition, but told reporters he was retiring from weightlifting to spend more time with his wife and son.

"I feel very tired. I want a break from weightlifting and spend more time with my family. But maybe after a long break I might change my mind," Ivanov said.

The gold medalist in Barcelona last year in the old 52-kg class said there were now many good lifters in his division.

"I am not scared of the opposition. I like competition. "I was so confident I would

win the world championship, but it was not my day," Mutlu said.

Mutlu, 20, known as the "tiny Turk," equalled the 275 kg that he lifted to win the world junior titles earlier this year, which was also the previous heaviest lift in the category this year.

Ivanov, who has never won the snatch competition in any of his world title wins could only manage a 120.0 kg lift in the

match.

China's Yang Bin won the

snatch with a best lift of 122.5 kg, but still missed out on a medal, coming fourth behind South Korea's Ko Kwang-Ku, who picked up the bronze.

Organisers said Hong didn't show for the weigh-in, but may compete in Saturday's 50-kg class.

The Chinese women were expected to make a clean sweep of the women's titles, after winning in all nine divisions at the last World Championships.

Taiwan also picked up silver with Shio-Fen Yu lifting 147.5 kg. Satomi Saito from Japan took bronze with the same total as Yo, but needed more attempts.

Sabatini advances to Philadelphia quarterfinals

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over 21-ranked Lindsay Davenport.

Sabatini, the fourth seed, will face unseeded Anna Frazier, who upset seventh-seed Mary Pierce Thursday 7-6 (11-9) 6-4.

Amanda Coetzer, seeded eighth, defeated qualifier Ann Heironick, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) and will face top-seed Steffi Graf.

The other quarterfinal pits second-seed Conchita Martinez and ninth-seed Natalia Zvereva.

Unseeded Kimberly Po, who upset sixth-seed Helena Sukova in the first round, beat doubles partner Marianne Werdel and will face Zina Garrison, who defeated Lori McNeil 6-3, 6-1.

Sabatini has not won a tournament since the Italian Open in May of last year. Although she has reached at least the semifinals of nine tournaments this year.

Guillermo Vilas, a former

Australian, French and U.S. Open champion has been coaching Sabatini for the last month.

"Any win, I feel, is a good win, because everyone is so good now," said the 21-year-old Frazier, whose ranking has dropped from a high of 15 in 1991 to its current 53.

Pierce, ranked 15th, rebounded in a second set that featured seven service breaks, but could not hold off Frazier.

"I'm taking each match, each point, one at a time. I haven't even looked to see who I'm playing next."

Meanwhile Graf will face Zvereva in the opening round next week as the No. 1 seed begins her quest for her first

Virginia Slims Championships since 1989.

Monica Seles, who has won the season-ending tournament at Madison Square Garden the last three years, has not played since she was stabbed by a spectator during a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, on April 30.

The week-long Virginia Slims Championship begins

Second seeded in the 16-player field is Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who will more than likely play Helena Sukova in the first round. Sukova could be replaced in the \$3.5 million tournament by McNeil if McNeil wins this week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Other first-round matches will pit third-seeded Martina Navratilova against Natalie Tauziat, 4-0 Conchita Martinez against Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, No. 5 Gabriela Sabatini against Mary Pierce, No. 6 Mary Joe Fernandez against Amanda Coetzer, No. 7 Jana Novotna against Zina Garrison Jackson.

In a separate development, the women's Tennis Association (WTA) has hired a German lawyer to try to overturn

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CONCORD '2' in
The Prince Of Tides
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:15, 10:15

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Eric Roberts — in
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Constitution does not call for change of cabinet after polls — Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Friday said the decision on the change or reshuffle of government, following the Parliamentary elections held on Nov. 8, rests with His Majesty King Hussein, saying that neither the National Charter nor the Constitution stipulates that the government should resign after elections.

In an interview with the London-based Middle East Television Centre, Dr. Majali said once the Parliament convenes, and a speaker is elected, the government will ask the House for a vote of confidence. If it wins, then it will go ahead with its responsibilities, but if it doesn't secure the vote of confidence then it has to resign, allowing for a new government to be formed.

Dr. Majali said elections were held as scheduled because the King wanted them to be held on time.

The King has taken the decision not to put off the polls after consulting with the government, he said. The request to postpone elections was made by some political parties which thought that the post-1967 Palestinian displaced persons might opt to go back home following the signature

in Washington last September of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

Dr. Majali said democracy "is not new to Jordan. It has started long time ago and not just four years ago or upon the formation of political parties, as some might think."

"Parties have always been allowed, provided that they act in accordance with the laws in force in Jordan. He pointed out that the reason for not licensing political parties before the enactment of political parties law was that parties were loyal to alien powers and were receiving financial support from abroad, and were targeting the regime."

He said that the adoption of the National Charter and the enactment of the political parties law have organised the formation of such parties. The law stipulates that parties should have loyalty to Jordan and does not receive any financial support from abroad, he said.

Dr. Majali said Jordan has extended its hands to Arab Gulf countries "with all honesty" and has received encouraging responses from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. He voiced hope that relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will also improve.

Bosnian army attacks UNPROFOR headquarters

SARAJEVO (K) — Muslim gunners attacked the United Nations headquarters town of Kiseljak Friday in a new thrust against their Croat foes in central Bosnia.

Five people were reported dead in an artillery barrage on the Croat stronghold 30 kilometres west of Sarajevo, where Croatian and Bosnian government representatives were discussing ways to stem the fighting.

The Bosnian Croat news agency Habana said the military hospital in Kiseljak appealed for blood supplies as the town rocked under a concerted attack by the 3rd and 6th corps of the Muslim-led Bosnian army.

Kiseljak is the headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and was chosen because it has been relatively unscathed by the 19-month civil war.

The U.N. base was not endangered by the latest shelling

but a mortar exploded 100 metres from it on Thursday.

Captain Nils Pedersen said by telephone that shelling by both sides could be heard to the north of the base and that a large number of tanks belonging to the Croat Defence Council (HVO) had been seen on the move.

He was unable to confirm Habana's casualty toll.

Habana said the Bosnian Croat villages of Orasje, Pobrede and Brezovska were also attacked.

The Muslims pressed their offensive although a member of Bosnia's collective presidency said on Thursday that attacks on Croat enclaves in central Bosnia would stop as "an expression of our concern for the population and the will of our army."

The ceasefire was supposed to coincide with peace talks on Friday in Sarajevo between Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.

Mr. Silajdzic told reporters the HVO had launched an offensive on Thursday against the Muslims between Fojnica and Bakovici west of Kiseljak.

"The situation is very tense in this area," he added.

Thirty Croat mortar rounds exploded within 50 metres of a Muslim hospital for mental patients and seriously injured casualties at Bakovici.

Two worked on the poultry farm from where Mizrahi was kidnapped.

King Hussein.

On the participation in the general elections by Jordanians of Palestinian origin, and the impact of that on the demands for the fulfilment of Palestinian refugees and displaced peoples' right of return or compensation, the King said that participation in the elections does not weaken the Palestinians' rights to return or to demand compensation.

"We were bound to hold the elections in order to continue building the foundations of democracy while the Palestinians, whether present in Jordan or elsewhere, will continue to have the right to demand their rights," added King Hussein.

Describing the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship as unique, King Hussein said the relationship was influenced by attempts to portray Jordan's supportive stand of the Palestinians and their rights on their national soil as "Jordanian ambitions."

By signing the Israeli-

Jordanian agenda, the King said, Jordan had aimed at helping the Palestinians to attain their rights as well as dealing with Jordanian issues.

On the future Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, the King said this would be left for the people to decide in their own free will and therefore any talk about a deal now would be premature and could lead to a situation resembling previous experiments in the Arab World that ended in failure.

Stressing that Jordan would continue to support the Palestinians, King Hussein said that the Kingdom had shouldered heavy responsibilities since the 1967 war.

He also noted that in his meetings with the Egyptian leadership following the 1967 war, Jordan and Egypt agreed to do whatever was to be done to regain control of the occupied Palestinian land. He said that Egypt and Jordan then agreed that there should be no separate peace agreements with Israel.

Mr. Clinton said he would ask Congress to guarantee loans to Israel to help it "defray the cost of peace." He also promised U.S. help in maintaining Israel's "qualitative" security edge over potential foes.

Mr. Clinton thanked Mr. Clinton, saying, "thank you and God bless you," for the U.S. leader's pledge to keep U.S. aid at current levels.

Mr. Clinton said he would explore additional loan guarantees and unspecified "other assistance" in talks with Congress to help Israel cope with the economic turmoil caused by the peace agreement with Palestinians.

Mr. Clinton also said Mr. Rabin briefly raised the case of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, serving a life sentence for giving U.S. military secrets to Israel. Mr. Rabin has asked that Mr. Pollard's sentence be cut to 10 years, and Mr. Clinton said he had asked the Justice Department to review the record and make a recommendation.

Mr. Clinton saluted progress in the Israel-Jordan talks but said peace between Israel and Syria was "essential" to any lasting peace in the region. He said there would be no agreement signed between Israel and Jordan during Mr. Rabin's

Israel demands PLO condemn killing of settler

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel demanded Friday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) publicly condemn the killing of a Jewish settler by five members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction who contended they acted without the group's knowledge.

The army's announcement of the Fatah link — even if indirect — to the Sept. 29 killing of Haim Mizrahi was a political blow to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, on an official visit to the United States.

He has repeatedly cited Fatah's adherence to a pledge not to attack Israelis as proof PLO Chairman Arafat is a peace partner who can be trusted.

Lifting censorship of news of the detentions, the army said Mr. Rabin ordered Israeli negotiators at autonomy talks with the PLO to express Israel's severe displeasure over the killing.

"I am stunned by this news," said Housing Minister Binyamin Be-Eliezer. "There is no forgiving this... the one thing the PLO needs to do is to come out now with the strongest possible condemnation — otherwise we have a problem."

The army said the men, whom it identified as Fatah members, contended under interrogation they had acted on their own initiative when they stabbed and kidnapped Mizrahi as he was buying eggs in an Arab village in the occupied West Bank.

"It was made clear (to senior PLO delegate Nabil Shaath) that this act cannot be tolerated from our standpoint and requires a public condemnation from the highest relevant levels of the PLO, along with steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence," the army said in a statement.

The army had originally blamed the killing on the militant fundamentalist Hamas group, which had claimed responsibility.

One of the detainees, the army said, suffered a brain haemorrhage while in custody and the circumstances were being investigated. Palestinian sources said he was beaten during interrogation.

In the statement, the army said the Shin Bet secret police and the military had recently uncovered the alleged guerrilla cell in the Ramallah area, north of Jerusalem.

Military censors barred pub-

lication of the arrests and investigation for several days.

The right-wing opposition demanded the autonomy agreement now be torn up.

Rafael Eitan, head of the far-right Tsomet Party, called for Mr. Rabin's immediate return from the United States.

"Rabin deliberately lied to us when he told us that Hamas carried out this attack," charged Uri Ariel, general secretary of the settler's council. Mr. Rabin met a delegation of settlers on Wednesday in a bid to calm protests.

"The negotiations must be stopped," Mr. Ariel said.

National Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer said: "Rabin's lies have been exposed. He claimed he was negotiating with sheep but he's dancing with wolves."

Delegation chief General Amnon Shahak had voiced during autonomy talks with the PLO "Israel's displeasure, particularly since the killing was committed by Fatah people, violating the commitment of the PLO to stop acts of terrorism by his organisation," a spokesman said.

"General Shahak exploded clearly.... that Israel will not tolerate such acts."

"This murder demands a public condemnation from the highest PLO officials who must give a pledge that such acts will not be repeated," the statement said.

The five, caught near Ramallah "several days ago," had confessed to the killing which took place without Fatah leaders being informed, according to the spokesman.

"They acted on their own initiative and without orders," he said in a statement.

The PLO ordered Fatah militants to halt all attacks on Israelis following the autonomy deal.

"The PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators," Mr. Arafat wrote in a letter to Mr. Rabin on Sept. 9.

One of the five captured men, who all lived near Ramallah, had led soldiers to an arms cache on the West Bank where Mizrahi's own gun had been hidden, the spokesman said.

Two worked on the poultry farm from where Mizrahi was kidnapped.



A crying Palestinian boy tries to make his way through Israeli border guards closing Jerusalem Old City's Damascus Gate after the stabbing of an Israeli soldier by a Palestinian youth (AFP photo)

One of the five, who made up an armed Fatah cell but were not named, had been hospitalised with a head injury. An inquiry was underway into the circumstances, the spokesman added.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which opposes the autonomy agreement, claimed responsibility for the killing.

Meanwhile soldiers arrested Friday four members of the Hawks, Fatah's armed wing on the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. They were caught after a shootout at Bureij refugee camp.

Soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian trying to get out from the Gaza Strip through the Nahal Oz crossing, military officials said.

Israel, PLO bound by Dec. 13 deadline — Shahal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel will have to abide by the Dec. 13 deadline for the start of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Friday.

"There is no choice but to abide by the schedules," Mr. Shahal told the Jerusalem Post newspaper.

The Sept. 13 autonomy agreement does not grant either Israel or the PLO the right to delay, he said.

"The accord is 'hot built to allow the possibility of saying... wait a minute, we're stopping,'"

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered the Israeli negotiators to meet the deadline before he left overnight Wednesday for a 10-trip to the United States, according to Mr. Shahal.

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6 honoured for contributions to press freedom

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. media mogul Ted Turner and five foreign journalists were honoured by the Committee to Protect Journalists in recognition of their contributions to press freedom. Turner, the founder of Cable News Network, won the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for CNN's revolutionary impact on what Turner calls the "democratisation of information."

A Press Freedom Award also went to Long Doan, the son of imprisoned Vietnamese journalist Doan Viet Hoat. The elder Doan has been held in a detention camp for three years because he edited a newsletter that published a variety of viewpoints.

The other award winners were recognised for "providing independent news coverage and commentary despite arrest, physical attack and threats to themselves and their families."

The Committee to Protect Journalists said in a statement.

They are: Veran Manic, editor-in-chief of Radio B92, a news and music station in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia; Omar Belhouchet, editor of El Watan in Algeria. Belhouchet was recently sentenced to a year in jail for an article that questioned the government's handling of a terrorist bombing.

He is free on appeal.

Ricardo Uceda, editor of Si magazine in Peru. Si recently uncovered evidence of military involvement in two massacres of civilians, and Nosa Iglesias, editor of Tell magazine in Nigeria.

Government forces have attacked Tell, arrested Iglesias and other editors and confiscated thousands of copies of the magazine.

Pope leaves hospital after hurting shoulder

ROME (R) — Pope John Paul returned to the Vatican F day after spending a night in hospital for a dislocated shoulder. The 73-year-old Pontiff walked out of Rome's Policlinico Gemelli private hospital at 0921 GMT and stepped into a limousine that drove him to the Vatican.

The Pope injured his shoulder when he tripped on the hem of his white robe and fell during a Vatican audience Thursday. A Vatican statement said doctors reset his dislocated right shoulder. He was kept in hospital overnight for observation. The Pope tripped and fell as he descended three steps from the Papal throne after addressing delegates of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Reports of Queen Mum's death greatly exaggerated

SYDNEY (AFP) — Embarrassed Australian broadcasting stations were forced Friday to quickly retract "unconfirmed" reports of the death of Britain's queen mother after discovering she was very much alive. The reports, which sparked rumours prompting an official denial by Governor General Bill Hayden, were carried on 11 a.m. (0200 GMT) news bulletins by Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) Radio, 2UE Radio and the Channel Seven Television Station. A spokesman for Channel Seven said the reports stemmed from a dummy run by Britain's Sky Television station, which had apparently been doing a routine check of an obituary item on the queen mother. The spokesman said it seemed the footage had been seen by an employee of Sky who assumed it was going to air and rang a contact at a radio station in Australia, as a result of which it was broadcast by 2UE. Channel Seven acknowledged the error and apologised shortly after its bulletin started, admitting it had erred in basing its report solely on a 2UE news report. A 2UE spokesman said they also had been "left down" by one of their affiliate stations which had alerted them to the "news tip." A statement by ABC Radio said it had broadcast the report as being "unconfirmed," but the story had been quickly withdrawn and a correction broadcast. "Running the story was an error of judgement," it said. "Steps have been taken to ensure such a lapse is not repeated."

Islamist, leftist deputies likely to form 'vocal' bloc

(Continued from page 1)

Democratic Party (JDPD) fielded six candidates. The JDPD, Bassam Haddadin, won a seat in Zarqa.

"Opponents of the peace process have been ousted with the help of the one-person, one-vote amendment to the Election Law and now the way is clear for the government to sign a peace agreement with Israel with parliamentary approval," said the JDPD spokesman on condition of anonymity.

While the spokesman for the leftist party conceded that "there will be some opposition from non-party deputies on in-

ternal issues, these will be of minor political importance and will not upset the government priorities: the peace process and the implementation of the economic adjustment programme."

Not only political observers and commentators were sceptical of the 12th Parliament's ability to oppose government policies on major issues, however.

"The voices of opposition in this Parliament will be much less and may contribute to a lack of creative dialogue," says Dr. Arwa Al Ameri, who heads the independent Centre for Women's Studies.

"There are not only less

members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Parliament but many very progressive voices that created dialogue in Parliament, have lost," says Dr. Ameri.

"To have large numbers of deputies of the same political trend (traditionalists) in the Lower House may lead to a lack of democratic development where people vote on issues and policies regardless of clan, sectarian or regional affiliations," Dr. Ameri said.

Such a situation, says Dr. Ameri may "lack the enriching process of dialogue that ultimately leads to improvement."

Dissent, says Dr. Ameri, "is not a luxury, it is a necessity for constant improvement and growth."

The one-person, one-vote amendment to the Election Law forced Jordanians to "fall back on traditions of tribal politics which are not conducive to democratic development where people vote on issues and policies regardless of clan, sectarian or regional affiliations," Dr. Ameri said.

The performance of the critical forces in Parliament remains to be seen but the ability of the existing bloc of 30 to create a lively dialogue is almost certain.

female deputy in the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament.

Ms. Faisal, whose campaign picked up only in the last week of electioneering, collected all the disgruntled votes left over from the race for the three Muslim seats as well as support from voters who wanted a woman to reach Parliament.

Her biggest support came from a good number of Christian voters who had already decided that they wanted to influence the choice of Muslim deputies representing this district.